National Family Benefit Schemes in Gujarat

4200. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended National Family Benefit Schemes (NFBS) in the rural parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of households below the poverty line which were extended NFBS in the State during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to improve the lot of rural poor living below poverty line to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Assistance under the National Family Benefit Scheme is available to households below the poverty line in the event of death of the primary breadwinner in the bereaved family subject to the following conditions:—

(1) The primary breadwinner is the member of the household whose earnings contribute the largest proportion to the total household income.

(2) The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occured whilst he or she in the age group of 18 to 64 years i.e. more than 18 years of age and less than 65 years of age.

(3) The bereaved household qualifies as one below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(4) Rs. 5000/- in the case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000/- in the case of death due to accidental causes will be the ceilings for the purpose of claiming Central assistance.

(5) The number of such cases should be within the numerical ceiling prescribed.

(c) The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Socail Assistance Programme came into force from 15th August, 1995. The State Government of Gujarat took considerable time to complete the Administrative arrangement for the implementation of the scheme and hence did not report any beneficiaries during 1995-96. During 1996-97, only 9 beneficiaries were benefited under NFBS as reported by the State Government.

(d) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), Million Wells Scheme (MWS) are other major scheme being implemented by the centre to improve the lot of the poor people living in rural areas of the state.

Drinking Water to Tribal Hamlets

4201. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal hamlets in Nizamabad and Visakhapatnam districts in Andhra Pradesh are facing acute shortage of drinking water; and